

IN THE CLAIMS:

27. (Cancelled)

2.

28. (Currently amended) A socket assembly as set forth in claim [[27]] ~~25~~,

wherein each of the engagement portion of said actuation shaft member has a concave shape and ~~the engagement portion~~ is formed so as to push against a lateral side surface of said electrical component ~~at the time of loading of said electrical component~~.

3.

29. (Currently amended) A socket assembly as set forth in claim [[20]] ~~25~~,

wherein said base arm of each of said contact [[pin]] pins is formed with an extension portion ~~extended from between said external connecting terminal and said spring portion~~, said actuation shaft member being sandwiched by the engagement portion of said springy arm of said contact pin and said extension portion.

4.

30. (Currently amended) A socket assembly as set forth in claim [[28]] ~~25~~,

wherein said extension portion of said base arm has a tip portion so that said electrical component [[is]] can be sandwiched by said contact portion of said springy arm and [[a]] the tip portion of said extension portion at a loading position of said base arm, and at least one of said contact portion and said tip portion acts as an electrical conductive terminal with said electrical component.

5.

21. (Currently amended) A socket assembly as set forth in claim [[27]] ~~35~~, wherein said ~~spring portion is constituted by~~ springy arm has a first spring portion provided at a side of said contact portion and a second spring portion provided at a side of said external connecting terminal.

6.

B1 22. (Currently amended) A socket assembly as set fourth in claim [[27]] ~~35~~, wherein a plurality of ribs are disposed in parallel on said actuation shaft member, and said contact pins are isolated by said ribs, respectively.

7.

23. (Currently amended) A socket assembly as set forth in claim [[27]] ~~35~~, wherein said base plate is provided with a means of suppressing the rotation of said actuation shaft member by said spring member at a predetermined angular position.

8.

24. (Currently amended) A socket assembly as set forth in claim [[27]] ~~35~~, wherein said actuation shaft member has an arm on at least one end thereof, and said base plate is provided with a cover member attached to said base plate so that it which can vertically move ~~[[can]]~~ to rotate said actuation shaft member against the force of said spring member via said arm.

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38. (New) A socket assembly comprising:

a plurality of contact pins arranged in parallel on a base plate for loading an electrical component thereon and each having a base arm which is secured to the base plate, an external terminal which is connected to the base arm and extends toward an outside of the base plate, a springy arm which is connected to the base arm and extends toward an upper side of the electrical component so as to form a contact portion which can come into contact with a terminal formed on the upper side of the electrical component, and an engagement portion which is formed on the springy arm;

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an actuation shaft member extending along the direction of arrangement of the contact pins and having a plurality of engagement ^{PROJECTIONS} ~~portions~~ formed along a circumferential surface thereof for engagement with the engagement portion of each of the contact pins; and

a spring member for urging the actuation shaft member for rotation in one direction about an axis of the actuation shaft member,

wherein either one of the engagement portion of each of the contact pins and each engagement ^{PROJECTION} ~~portion~~ of the actuation shaft member is made convex and the other is made concave, whereby the actuation shaft member sequentially having two engagement sections in its rotation direction with respect to the contact pins so that the contact portion of each of the contact pins can be brought into contact with or separated from the electrical component at one of the engagement sections of the

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actuation shaft member and can be slid with respect to the electrical component at the
other engagement section of actuation shaft member.
